

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35 and 40-43 were pending.

Claims 3, 5-8 and 22 are canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 20 are currently amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 16, 20, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35 and 40-43 are now pending and are under consideration.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of original claim 3.

Claim 1 is also amended to define the low molecular weight organic acid or salt as in original claim 22.

Claim 20 is amended to delete "water-soluble salts used in washing agent and/or washing agent additive formulations".

The claims are otherwise amended to have proper dependency.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4, 9, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for reasons of record.

The low molecular weight organic acids and salts thereof are now defined as in original claim 22.

The terms "water-soluble salts used in washing agent and/or washing agent additive formulations" of claim 20 are now canceled.

Applicants submit that in light of these amendments that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejections are addressed and are overcome.

Claims 1-4, 9, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kvita, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,291,412 in view of Willey, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,407,049, Vandijk, et al., published U.S. app. 2003/0195134 or Kitko, et al., published U.S. app. 2003/0232734.

Kvita is cited as teaching granules comprising a water soluble phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, a water soluble organic polymer, a further additive and water.

Kvita does not teach granules comprising an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof.

Willey is cited as teaching laundry detergent compositions comprising phthalocyanine compounds. The compositions are also cited as comprising water soluble inorganic or organic salts.

Vandijk is also cited to remedy the deficiencies of Kvita. Vandijk has a U.S. filing date of March 28, 2003. The priority date of the present application is September 4, 2002. The present claims are fully supported by the priority document. Thus, Vandijk is not prior art. Submitted herewith is a certified English translation of the priority document.

Kitko is cited as teaching detergent compositions comprising alkali metal carbonates, silicates, sulphates, etc. Kitko is also cited as teaching the use of polyacrylic acid.

The present invention differs from Kvita with respect to instant component c) 15 to 75% by weight of an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt.

Willey teaches as adjunct materials chelating agents and inert salts (filler salts). This teaching is very generic.

Likewise, Kitko only very generically teaches adjunct components (para. 0080). Adjunct materials are for instance anti-redeposition agents, bleaching agents, brighteners, builders, chelants,

dye-transfer inhibitors, enzymes, fabric-integrity agents, fillers, flocculants, perfumes, soil release agents, surfactants, soil-suspension agents, dispersants, alkalinity source, suds suppressors, softening systems and combinations thereof. Adjunct components as salts are taught in paragraph 0094.

Applicants submit that the specific present claims could not have been arrived at from the combined disclosures of the cited art. The disclosures of Willey and Kitko regarding inorganic salts and organic salts are very generic. One skilled in the art could not have arrived at the present invention from these broad disclosures.

Further, Applicants submit herewith a Rule 132 Declaration by Ullrich Menge, one of the present inventors.

Formulations A-F were prepared.

Formulation A is of the closest prior art, Example 10 of Kvita.

Formulations B-E are of the present invention.

Formulation F is as present Example 11 with no dispersing agent or polymer.

The formulations are tested for two important properties: rate of dissolution in water and solubility in a liquid nonionic surfactant.

Formulations B-E show better solubility in water than prior art formulation A. This provides for a lower risk of spotting laundry. Un-dissolved colored photoactivators may cause spotting.

Formulation B is comparable to Formulation A relative to solubility in a nonionic surfactant. Formulation F, with no dispersing agent, shows much greater solubility in a nonionic surfactant. This is a measure of storage stability of the granules in the final detergent powder product. The less soluble in a nonionic surfactant, the greater the storage stability.

Thus, the present granules are superior to granules that do not contain the present inorganic salt or organic acid or salt thereof, and are superior to granules that do not contain the present

dispersing agent or polymer. As stated in the Menge Declaration, the present improvement attainable with respect to the degree of the rate of dissolving of granules in water while at the same time maintaining stability in nonionic surfactants at high salt levels of the granule could not have been foreseen. The results are surprising and could not have been expected in light of the cited art.

In view of the present discussion and the Menge Declaration, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

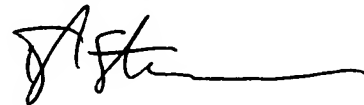
The Menge Declaration is not signed. A signed copy is forthcoming and will be forwarded to the PTO shortly.

In view of all of the above, Applicants submit that each of the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 17, 2008

Attachments: English translation of priority document
Rule 132 Declaration (Ullrich Menge)